

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T DOHA 365

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, PBOR, PEPR, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON USG PROPOSAL FOR SOUTH LEBANON

REF: (A) STATE 068560 (B) STATE 069250

1. ON MARCH 19 AMBASSADOR MADE REQUESTED DEMARCHE (REFTEL B)
TO EGYPTIAN NATIONAL DR. HASSAN KAMEL, ADVISOR TO THE GOVERNMENT
OF QATAR. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN ACTIVE MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, DR. KAMEL IS DE FACTO MINISTER, AT LEAST IN SITUATIONS
OF THIS SORT. I SAID WE HAD MADE CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS THAT WE
EXPECTED THEM TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON AND THAT WE WERE CONSULTING
WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ABOUT A POSSIBLE UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING
ROLE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. I NOTED THAT SINCE RECEIPT OF INSTRUCT-

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IONS EVENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS SEEMED TO BE MOVING TOWARDS
ADOPTION OF A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION ALONG THE LINES
SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES. THE LATEST VOICE OF AMERICA NEWS
INDICATED THAT SYRIA WOULD NOT OPPOSE OUR POSITION. MY AIM IN
APPROACHING THE GOQ WAS TO SECURE QATARI UNDERSTANDING AND BACKING
FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR SOUTHERN LEBANON.

2. DR. KAMEL REPLIED THAT THE PALESTINIAN RAID ON ISRAEL PRECEDING THE ISRAELI INVASION OF LEBANON WAS STUPID AND MONSTROUS, ESPECIALLY AS INNOCENT WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE AMONG THE VICTIMS. NEVERTHELESS, THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON LEBANON WAS OUT OF PROPORTION TO THE PROVOCATION. THE VIOLATION OF LEBANON'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY WAS AN AFFRONT TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, TO THE ARABS AND TO THE WHOLE WORLD. BUT MOST OF ALL, IN DR. KAMEL'S OPINION, THE ISRAELI ATTACK WAS A SLAP IN THE FACE OF THE UNITED STATES. AMERICA HAD ARMED ISRAEL SO HEAVILY AND PLACED SO FEW RESTRAINTS ON ISRAELI ACTIONS, THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE REGARDED BY MOST ARABS AS JUST AS MUCH TO BLAME AS ISRAEL. IN SPITE OF THIS, DR. KAMEL SAID THAT QATAR AND HE SUPPOSED OTHER ARAB STATES AS WELL WOULD SUPPORT THE UNITED STATES IN ESTABLISHING A UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. THIS SEEMED THE ONLY PRACTICAL WAY TO GET THE ISRAELIS TO EVACUATE, AS HUMILIATING AS THIS IS TO THE ARABS.

3. DR. KAMEL CONTINUED THAT IN THE PASSIONS OF THE MOMENT, THE IMPORTANT THING WAS FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. AMIR KHALIFA AND QATAR WERE STILL COUNTING ON PRESIDENT CARTER TO USE ALL HIS POWER TO BRING ABOUT PEACE. OTHERWISE, THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR MODERATE ARAB LEADERS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT SADAT, TO SURVIVE. THEN THE AREA WOULD BE OPEN TO RADICAL LEADERS WHO WOULD BRING THE SOVIETS EVER MORE STRONGLY INTO THE MIDDLE EAST.

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4. COMMENT: LOOKING BACK TO LAST FALL, IT MIGHT BE RECALLED THAT THE QATARI AMIR UNDERTOOK TO HOLD THE LINE ON OIL PRICES, NOT BECAUSE HE BELIEVED THIS WAS JUSTIFIED ON PURELY ECONOMIC GROUNDS BUT BECAUSE HE WANTED TO STRENGTHEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S HAND IN HIS MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. SO WE KNOW THAT WHEN KAMEL SAYS THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET ON WITH EFFORTS TO FIND AN OVERALL PEACE SETTLEMENT HE IS REFLECTING AMIR KHALIFA'S THINKING. END COMMENT.
KILLGORE

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NNN

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